

Why You Should Get Involved As A Citizen Corps Volunteer

Having citizens who are better prepared to take care of themselves and others during times of crisis allows first responders to focus their efforts on the most critical, life-threatening situations. Everyone can do something to support local first responders.

There are many tasks that a well-trained, organized group of citizen volunteers can perform on an ongoing basis, such as:

- During times of heightened national security alerts, assist in planning for quick access to emergency supplies, shelter readiness, and procedures review
- Assist with hard-to-reach, at-risk audiences to improve safety (e.g. senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, etc.)
- Assist with foreign language translation of safety literature
- Assist with youth programs and youth mentoring services
- Assist with injury prevention awareness programs
- Assist with maintenance of emergency vehicles
- Assist with public relations
- Develop computer programs and design/improve web sites
- Answer phone calls during emergencies
- Assist with typing reports, managing records, and other office tasks
- Assist departments with community programs, such as roadside cleanup and food drives for families in need
- And much more

"(Michigan is) creating a network of citizen patriots prepared to help their fellow citizens recover from the shattered rubble of a tornado's wake or the twisted steel of a freeway accident. By the end of the year, I expect that 15,000 volunteers will have been trained for disaster relief."

Governor Jennifer Granholm
State of the State Address
January 2004

LEARN MORE!

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Michigan Citizen Corps is a part of the
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This publication was printed with a FEMA grant.
State of Michigan funds were not used.

Opportunities For Michigan's FIRST RESPONDERS



MICHIGAN CITIZEN CORPS

Michigan Citizen Corps helps communities coordinate volunteers to prepare for and respond to local emergencies. It trains and engages volunteers to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to emergencies and disasters of all kinds, including threats of terrorism, natural disasters, crime, public health issues, etc. Citizen Corps are especially important during major disasters when first responders may be initially overwhelmed. Citizen Corps activities are adapted to every community's need and managed locally by a Citizen Corps Council (see Citizen Corps Programs). The Michigan Citizen Corps encourages communities to engage every citizen in homeland security efforts. Individuals can get involved in a variety of ways:

Personal Responsibility. Everyone should have a household preparedness plan that includes disaster supply kits, observing home health and safety practices, implementing disaster mitigation measures, and participating in fire/crime prevention and reporting.

Training. You can take classes in emergency preparedness, response capabilities, first aid, CPR, fire suppression, and search and rescue procedures.

Volunteer Service. There are a variety of opportunities to get involved as a volunteer. See Citizen Corps Programs for more information.

CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAMS

Citizen Corps Councils are local community leaders that provide direction on issues relating to homeland security. These Councils, which include volunteer organizations, first responders, (fire, police, and emergency management professionals), and others prepare their community to handle any type of disaster or crisis situation.

www.citizencorps.gov/councils

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Program trains people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their community. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site.

www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/cert

Medical Reserve Corps coordinates volunteer health professionals, as well as other citizens, to provide ongoing support for community public health needs and resources during large-scale emergencies so they are prepared to assist during large-scale local emergencies.

www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Neighborhood Watch Program utilizes community volunteers, law enforcement, and other local organizations to help protect neighborhoods.

www.usaonwatch.org

Volunteers in Police Service provides resources to assist local law enforcement officials incorporate community volunteers into the activities of law enforcement agencies.

www.policevolunteers.org



Michigan volunteers participate in CERT training